

1 DRAFT

2 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, NY  
3 was held on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, via Zoom.

4 The following officials were present:  
5

|                             |                  |   |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---|
| Mayor Pugh                  | Trustee Gallelli | 6 |
| Village Manager Bryan Healy | Trustee Horowitz | 7 |
| Village Attorney Whitehead  | Trustee Rosales  | 8 |
| Village Treasurer Tucker    | Trustee Simon    | 9 |

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12 1. CALL TO ORDER

13 Mayor Pugh called the meeting to order at 7:12pm. Everyone joined in the  
14 Pledge of Allegiance.

15 2. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

16 Trustee Simon made a motion to approve the following *Fiscal Year* Vouchers.  
17 The motion was seconded by Trustee Horowitz and approved with a 5-0 Vote.

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| General Fund | \$52,260.67 |
| Water Fund   | \$3,185.27  |
| Sewer Fund   | \$1,285.26  |
| Capital Fund | \$81,085.80 |
| Trust Fund   | \$3,987.90  |

18

19 3. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY EMAIL – none

20 4. CORRESPONDENCE:

21 a. Memo from Village Manager Healy dated December 31, 2021,  
22 regarding the consolidation of the Village Justice Court.

23 [https://play.champds.com/ATT/crotononhudsonny/2021-](https://play.champds.com/ATT/crotononhudsonny/2021-12/8e555438d0ac5f9b5059e473daf83d694fe24a4c.pdf)  
24 [12/8e555438d0ac5f9b5059e473daf83d694fe24a4c.pdf](https://play.champds.com/ATT/crotononhudsonny/2021-12/8e555438d0ac5f9b5059e473daf83d694fe24a4c.pdf)

25 Village Manager Healy explained that Village Court has had significant  
26 revenue losses and we have been exploring ways to fill that void, one  
27 of the options is the consideration of consolidating the Village Court  
28 with the Town of Cortlandt Court.

29 Mayor Pugh stated that the Village is facing significant financial  
30 headwinds and there would be a large fiscal impact if consolidation can

1 be made to work, part of the process is resolving some details and we  
2 are working with the Town Supervisor and the Town Board.

3 Trustee Simon commended the Mayor and the Village Manager for  
4 taking on this initiative, he believes that this is something worth  
5 exploring even without the financial savings because there are aspects  
6 of government coordination and consolidation that are worth looking at  
7 and looks forward to exploring this with the Town of Cortlandt.

8 Trustee Horowitz asked what the future of the Village's employees  
9 would look like and asked if Cortland has evening sessions.

10 Mayor Pugh stated that one of the reasons we are exploring this early  
11 is to have a planned transition in finding re-employment for the two  
12 full time clerks. Mayor Pugh stated that he believes they occasionally  
13 offer evening sessions.

14 Trustee Rosales thanked Mayor Pugh and Village Manager Healy for  
15 the pro-active nature of finding ways to improve our fiscal balance and  
16 asked what are the synergies that stand out, since there may be  
17 installations that the Town may not have that we may have.

18 Mayor Pugh stated that there are ways that this could be structured,  
19 one option would be taking advantage of the fact that the Village has a  
20 dedicated court room and dedicated office space for court related  
21 business, his understanding is that Town Court shares the Town of  
22 Cortland's main meeting room with other Town functions and having a  
23 dedicated room could be a benefit for them. Mayor Pugh explained  
24 that since you cannot terminate the position of Village Justice during  
25 their term, and because the Justice's term is up the end of 2022, it is  
26 something that we have decided to explore at this time.

27 Trustee Gallelli stated that this is a worthwhile thing to be looking at in  
28 light of the financial situation and since the Justice's terms is a four  
29 year term, it is situation that can only occur once every four years.

- 1 b. Memo from New York State Department of State dated December 30,  
2 2021, regarding request for comments on LWRP coordination.

3 [https://play.champds.com/ATT/crotononhudsonny/2021-](https://play.champds.com/ATT/crotononhudsonny/2021-12/b4e310198f469ec75740aaed800324f1debd3fb7.pdf)  
4 [12/b4e310198f469ec75740aaed800324f1debd3fb7.pdf](https://play.champds.com/ATT/crotononhudsonny/2021-12/b4e310198f469ec75740aaed800324f1debd3fb7.pdf)

5 Resolution:

6 On motion by Trustee Gallelli, seconded by Trustee Simon the Board of  
7 Trustees authorized the "Waterfront Advisory Committee" to comment  
8 on the New York State Department of Transportation's intent to pursue  
9 Federal funding for a regionwide project to improve local roads. Motion  
10 was approved with the following Roll Call vote: Trustee Rosales Aye,  
11 Trustee Simon Aye, Trustee Gallelli Aye, Trustee Horowitz Aye, Mayor  
12 Pugh Aye.

- 13 c. E-mail from Stephen Campbell of the New York Power Authority dated  
14 December 12, 2021, regarding the "Tree Power Program."

15 [https://play.champds.com/ATT/crotononhudsonny/2021-](https://play.champds.com/ATT/crotononhudsonny/2021-12/3fb2b5dad546d7742a185f8c4bf500ad21cce8c0.pdf)  
16 [12/3fb2b5dad546d7742a185f8c4bf500ad21cce8c0.pdf](https://play.champds.com/ATT/crotononhudsonny/2021-12/3fb2b5dad546d7742a185f8c4bf500ad21cce8c0.pdf)

17 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

18 Joel Gingold, 55 Nordica Drive, Croton on Hudson, asked that the  
19 resolution on permit parking for Nordica and Truesdale Drives be tabled,  
20 he believes that the resolution ignores the parking restrictions that have  
21 already been imposed, and it is not a true statement that those  
22 restrictions have had no meaningful impact on the Croton side of the  
23 River, parking is much lower than it was back in 2019 when the real  
24 problems occurred and while he understands that because of the virus  
25 we have not yet had a normal year with respect to people visiting the  
26 River and we also may not know whether the current restrictions will be  
27 good enough to solve those problems. Mr. Gingold suggested that a  
28 survey be conducted before the Board moves forward.

29 Village Manager Healy explained that under New York State Law the  
30 Village cannot enact a "Residential Parking Permit System" without

1 "Home Rule" legislation, it would be the Board's intent to remove the  
2 current restrictions if we were able to get approval from the State, the  
3 time and length of the restrictions would be determined by the Board,  
4 and he imagines that they would only be instituted for the necessary  
5 period of time.

6 Mayor Pugh stated that while we received authorization from the State  
7 for Hastings and Young Avenues, the Village did not establish a program  
8 for several months, and it was only instituted after extensive consultation  
9 with those residents.

10 Trustee Gallelli stated that this is a multi-step process and even if the  
11 State Legislature grants this request, it does not mean that it happens,  
12 is not a done deal even if the Legislature approves it.

13 Trustee Simon stated that the consultation process with Hasting and  
14 Young Avenue residents was at least a year long, he found that process  
15 helpful in terms of getting the neighbor's views and he would expect that  
16 the Board would go through a comparable process with Nordica and  
17 Truesdale Drive residents.

18 Brian Cook, 52 Truesdale Drive, Croton on Hudson, stated that he agrees  
19 with Mr. Gingold's comments, why even continue with the process if none  
20 of us want it, it seems a bit unreasonable if the proposal is to charge  
21 people to park when they are visiting family and friends during the  
22 summer.

23 Mayor Pugh stated that opinion on this matter is divided, there are  
24 residents that recognize that this is an inconvenience, but some residents  
25 on Truesdale recognize that this has helped with people parking and  
26 trespassing on their private property to access the River.

27 Village Manager Healy said that he is not sure where the information is  
28 coming from that the Village would be charging for a guest pass, this was  
29 never discussed for Hastings and Young Avenues, and it has not been  
30 discussed for Nordica and Truesdale Drive residents. Village Manager  
31 Healy explained that the first two resident permits are free, but there is a

1 ten dollar fee to obtain a permit for a third vehicle which is for a two year  
2 period.

3 Robert Anderson, 3 Oak Place, Croton on Hudson, stated that he is  
4 concerned that the Board is making a foregone conclusion that there is  
5 still a problem when in fact there isn't, he has found that the people who  
6 are parking there are family friendly, there is no litter and he has not  
7 seen more than four to five cars parked at a time and taking this step is  
8 not necessary when it will in essence block out a large number of  
9 respectful people who want to visit that area.

10 Comments submitted via e-mail:

11 E-mail from Marilyn and George Dreyer, 2 Cedar Lane, Croton on  
12 Hudson, stating that they do not support any restrictions on their street.

13 E-mail from Vernon Huff, 5 Nordica Drive, Croton on Hudson, stating that  
14 he opposes the proposed new parking regulations and does not believe  
15 the changes are necessary.

16 E-mail from Robert and Carolyn, 7 Nordica Drive, Croton on Hudson,  
17 stating that they are opposed to the proposed new permit system, they  
18 feel that the current system is working well.

19 E-mail from Tim Robinson, 15 Nordica Drive, Croton on Hudson, stating  
20 that he is opposed to the parking permit system, believes that the  
21 current system is working fine.

22 6. RESOLUTIONS:

23 **Resolution #1 of 2022**

24 On motion of TRUSTEE GALLELLI, seconded by TRUSTEE SIMON, the following  
25 resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-  
26 Hudson, New York, with the following Roll Call vote: Trustee Rosales Aye, Trustee  
27 Simon Aye, Trustee Gallelli Aye, Trustee Horowitz Aye, Mayor Pugh Aye.

1 WHEREAS New York State enacted legislation in 2012 that established a "property  
2 tax cap" on the amount that a local government's property tax levy can increase  
3 each year, and

4 WHEREAS under this law, the total amount to be raised through property taxes  
5 charged on the municipality's taxable assessed value of property, is capped at 2%  
6 or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, with some exceptions, and

7 WHEREAS the rate of inflation this year has been set by the State Comptroller's  
8 Office at 4.23% for municipalities operating on a June through May fiscal year, and

9 WHEREAS the state legislation provides for local governments to override the cap to  
10 protect the Village from unforeseen financial circumstances, and

11 WHEREAS the state legislation requires that in the event an override is necessary,  
12 the law enabling it must already have been adopted by the Board of Trustees, and

13 WHEREAS Local Law Introductory No. 1 of 2022 has been drafted to override the  
14 "property tax cap" law enacted by State Legislature, if necessary,

15 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of Trustees hereby calls  
16 for a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 7:00 PM in the Georgianna  
17 Grant Meeting Room of the Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building to consider  
18 Local Law Introductory No. 1 of 2022 to override the "property tax cap" law  
19 enacted by State Legislature,

20 AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 7 of the  
21 Public Officers Law to the contrary, the meeting may be conducted via virtual  
22 technology in accordance with the Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021, or it may be  
23 conducted in person at the Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building, located at 1  
24 Van Wyck Street, Croton-on-Hudson, New York. The format will be dictated by  
25 public health and safety concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

26 DISCUSSION:

27 Trustee Gallelli stated that every year since 2012 the Village has enacted this same  
28 resolution, it is a necessary step that we must take in order to protect the Village  
29 against the possibility that we would not come in with a budget that was

1 appropriately sized. Trustee Gallelli stated that in the past we have reversed this  
2 resolution just prior to the adoption of the Budget.

3 Mayor Pugh stated that historically this has been a proforma matter, however, we  
4 are in very uncharted waters in terms of revenues going down coupled with  
5 tremendous inflationary pressures. Mayor Pugh explained that in a highly  
6 inflationary environment like we are in today we could exceed the "Tax Cap," and  
7 this is a challenge that we are facing. Mayor Pugh stated that we cannot take  
8 anything for granted, and this is why the Village is looking aggressively for savings  
9 and new revenue sources.

10 Trustee Simon stated that inflation is just a fancy name for everything being more  
11 expensive, and referred everyone to the "Property Tax Cap" chart attached to the  
12 backup documents, when you at the 4.2% inflation number it is very chilling, and  
13 we are going to have our work cut out during the Budget process.

14 [https://play.champds.com/ATT/crotononhudsonny/2021-](https://play.champds.com/ATT/crotononhudsonny/2021-12/a463ae6e84ed521d9ca8811c9a16cb14eb11c1f0.pdf)  
15 [12/a463ae6e84ed521d9ca8811c9a16cb14eb11c1f0.pdf](https://play.champds.com/ATT/crotononhudsonny/2021-12/a463ae6e84ed521d9ca8811c9a16cb14eb11c1f0.pdf) (chart)

16 **Resolution #2 of 2022**

17 On motion of TRUSTEE HOROWITZ, seconded by TRUSTEE SIMON, the following  
18 resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-  
19 Hudson, New York with the following Roll Call vote: Trustee Rosales Aye, Trustee  
20 Simon Aye, Trustee Gallelli Aye, Trustee Horowitz Aye, Mayor Pugh Aye.

21 WHEREAS the Village has received complaints from residents in the area of  
22 Truesdale Drive, Nordica Drive, Cedar Lane and Old Post Road South regarding  
23 individuals who park their vehicles along the roadway to use the Croton River and  
24 the Croton Gorge Unique Area, and

25 WHEREAS in recent summers, which were particularly hot and humid, an extreme  
26 number of vehicles have parked on these roadways, which led to potential safety  
27 concerns, and

28 WHEREAS the New York-New Jersey Trails Conference, in consultation with the  
29 Village and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, has

1 established the stewards program to limit the users of the Croton Gorge Unique  
2 Area, and

3 WHEREAS while this program has had some success limiting vehicles accessing the  
4 area from the Ossining side of the Croton River, it has not had a meaningful impact  
5 on the Croton side of the Croton River, and

6 WHEREAS as a result, the Board of Trustees is desirous of having a residential  
7 parking permit system created for residents of Truesdale Drive, Nordica Drive,  
8 Cedar Lane and Old Post Road South, and

9 WHEREAS under New York State law, such a system can only be enacted after  
10 approval by the New York State Legislature,

11 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of Trustees hereby re-  
12 affirms its support for a residential parking permit system for Truesdale Drive,  
13 Nordica Drive, Cedar Lane and Old Post Road South in the Village, as previously  
14 established in Resolution 192-2019 dated December 19, 2019, and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to State  
16 Assemblywoman Sandra Galef and State Senator Peter Harckham.

17 **DISCUSSION:**

18 Village Manager Healy explained that back in December 2019 when the Village first  
19 requested the "Residential Parking Permit System" for Nordica and Truesdale  
20 Drives, a number of neighbors at the end of Old Post Road South had asked to be  
21 included, and while we have not received many complaints since we implemented  
22 the current restrictions, we did receive at that time some of the same concerns  
23 about where family and friends would park who are visiting in the summer.

24 After a discussion by the Board, the Resolution was amended to include Cedar Lane  
25 and Old Post Road South (from the corner of Morningside to Truesdale Drive).

26 **Resolution #3 of 2022**

27 On motion of TRUSTEE SIMON, seconded by TRUSTEE HOROWITZ, the following  
28 resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-



Hudson, New York with the following Roll Call vote: Trustee Rosales Aye, Trustee Simon Aye, Trustee Gallelli Aye, Trustee Horowitz Aye, Mayor Pugh Aye.

WHEREAS Westchester County maintains a system called the Westchester County Repository for Integrated Criminalistic Information (RICI) to allow for the electronic transmission and storage of criminal records and police blotter information, which includes information related to a subject's arrest, booking, detention or incarceration, and

WHEREAS the information is stored chronologically on a central computer maintained by the County and is shared by multiple law enforcement agencies having access to the system, and

WHEREAS the Village of Croton-on-Hudson had signed an agreement with the County to request access to the RICI system and supplemental computer services from Westchester County which has since expired, and

WHEREAS Police Chief Nikitopoulos has requested that Village renew this agreement with the County for an additional five-year term,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Manager is hereby authorized to sign the agreement with Westchester County to renew access to the Westchester County Repository for Integrated Criminalistic Information for the period beginning November 1, 2021 , through October 31, 2026.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: none

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes as amended of the Regular Meeting held on December 20, 2021, was made by Trustee Horowitz. Motion was seconded by Trustee Simon and approved with a 5-0 vote.

9. REPORTS:

Trustee Rosales thanked Village Manager Healy and Village staff for the disbursement of Covid related protective equipment and test kits and

1 looks forward to resolving some of these parking issues going forward in  
2 a way that represents everyone's interests.

3 Trustee Simon stated that he has been working with the "Sustainability  
4 Committee" on the new "Federal Electric Vehicle Charging Program", they  
5 are in the process of preparing comments on how to shape that program  
6 to ensure that Croton will be eligible, he and Mayor Pugh virtually  
7 attended the Town of Cortlandt's swearing-in ceremony, commended  
8 Matthew Sherman on his duties as past Chair of the "Bicycle Pedestrian  
9 Committee", and welcomed La Catrina restaurant to Croton.

10 Trustee Horowitz announced that the sub-committee of the  
11 "Conservation Advisory Council," "Croton Clean," has scheduled their  
12 next clean up at Croton Point Beach this Saturday, 9:00am.

13 Trustee Gallelli congratulated the new "EMS" Officers, she reminded  
14 everyone that if they are coming for an activity at the Municipal Building  
15 to please make sure that the event is still taking place, she virtually  
16 attended the Town of Cortlandt swearing in and welcomed the new  
17 officers. Trustee Gallelli stated that Covid is creating a huge problem in  
18 terms of uncertainties with revenues and expenses, and while we  
19 thought we were at the end, there has been a setback which she believes  
20 will have an impact on the Village's Budget process.

21 Mayor Pugh thanked everyone for their kind wishes while he was  
22 recovering from Covid, he attributes his mild case to being vaccinated  
23 and encouraged everyone to do so. Mayor Pugh advised that the  
24 Municipal building is closed for the remainder of the week, we have a  
25 duty to our work force to keep everyone safe as well as the community  
26 so that we continue to safely and reliably deliver Village services,  
27 residents can tele-communicate with staff, and a drop box has been  
28 provided at the Municipal Building.

29 Village Manager Healy advised that we have a hand-full of staff members  
30 out due to Covid, which is why we have closed the Municipal Building and  
31 we appreciate everyone's patience as we work to get through this.  
32 Village Manager Healy announced that the Public Hearing regarding

1 "1380 Albany Post Road" has been cancelled, some substantive changes  
2 by the Planning Board have been made, and we will be discussing it at  
3 our next Work Session. Village Manager Healy announced that Moody's  
4 has given the Village an "AA" rating, we had a successful discussion with  
5 them, and they are pleased with how we are planning to recover from  
6 our revenue loss at the train station. Village Manager Healy thanked  
7 those that helped with giving away Covid test kits and masks and while  
8 we were not able to satisfy everyone, we were able to hand out  
9 thousands to Village residents, decals for the "Residential Parking Permit  
10 System" have arrived for Hastings and Young Avenues and we look  
11 forward to getting the applications out to those residents, water bills are  
12 due on January 15<sup>th</sup>, payment can be made on-line, through the regular  
13 mail or deposited in the drop box at Village Hall.

14 There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion to close  
15 the meeting was made by Trustee Horowitz. Motion was seconded by Trustee  
16 Simon and approved with a 5-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

17 Respectfully submitted,

18 Judy Weintraub, Board Secretary

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 Paula DiSanto, Village Clerk